

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
April 2, 2009; 12:00-2:00 pm  
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Conf Rm F119-120  
Rialto, CA 92376

**Commissioners present:**

Gabriel Gonzales, Bill Swift, Michael Hill, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Jane Mercer, Tom Rivera, Veatrice Jews, Jane Godager, Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

**Excused Absence:**

David Ford and Tanya Perry

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Teri Posey, Mental Health Court; Hope Anderson, Success First; Armando Ontiveros EMQ Families First; Marsha Mathews, MHS Inc; Debbie Reno-Smith, VCSS; Michael Moreno, Faith Ikeda, Renee Compton, Lorie Bernard-Eklund, Pathways to Recovery; Manuel Aybar, Jason Hill, Michael Fralin, Mike Oliver, Doreen Glen, Doris Turner, Dianne Sceranka, Gary Atkins, Mark Thomas, Michelle Dusick, Bob Sudol, Mariann Ruffolo, André Bossieux, Lisa Hamilton, Michael Knight, Lauretta Ross, Cynthia White, Andy Gruchy, Lisa McGinnis, Ron Smith, Kristen Martinez, Marilyn Ashton, Charlene Daniels, Michael Schertell, Roberta Luna, Sharon Alston, Jatin Dalal, Arelis John Martinez.

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Acting Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and announced that she would be chairing the meeting today as David Ford was unable to attend. She welcomed everyone and self introductions followed.

The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of March 5, 2009 were adopted as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

André Bossieux, Program Manager II of the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program, announced that two of the Department's first Peer and Family Advocates, Stephen Morales and Richard Burgess, were granted full scholarships to the University of Phoenix. André will work with both men to manage both work and school.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales, First District, announced that members of the Victorville Clubhouse are satisfied with the recent remodel, except that they no longer have a stove. Gary Atkins, Deputy Director and Bob Sudol, Clubhouse Manager, will do what they can to resolve the issue while continuing to comply with building codes. Commissioner Gonzales also inquired about consumer bus passes. Bob Sudol has submitted a bus pass analysis to Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director, for approval. Mr. Sudol will provide an update at the next Mental Health Commission meeting.

Commissioner Jane Mercer, Fourth District, is very pleased with the merger to the Ontario Health Center as it is an ideal location for referral of Tent City consumers requiring services. She attended the MHSA FY 0910 Annual Update Public Hearing at BHRC Auditorium last week.

Commissioner Veatrice Jews, Fifth District, has been assisting with the RFP for the Family Resource Centers to be released in late April.

Director Rawland introduced and welcomed Talli Simmons, Constituent Service Representative, who will serve as the Mental Health Commission delegate on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

Commissioner Tom Rivera, Third District, led the members of the Commission and the audience in wishing Director Rawland a Happy Birthday.

Commissioner May Farr, Second District, announced that Commissioner Godager and Commissioner Mercer joined her at the MHSA Public Hearing last week. She also announced encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Mental Health Clothing Drive May, 4-8. In exchange for donations, Goodwill will provide clothing vouchers to participating county departments. DBH received 250 vouchers last year and hope to increase that amount this year. The California Mental Health Planning Council will meet in Los Angeles on April 15, 16 and 17. California Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) will meet directly following.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Lynn Neuenswander and Dorean Glenn have recently released the 2009 Spring Edition of the FACES newsletter, which is widely distributed to department wide, contract providers, Mental Health Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

The Hesperia Clinic will merge with the Victorville Clinic at the end of April. This merger will provide more services to clients and easy bus access. The Chino Multit-Diagnosis Clinic will merge with the Ontario Integrated Health Care Center at the end of June.

Allan introduced Veronica Kelley, the new Cultural Competency Officer, who comes to us from Orange County with tremendous credentials. Veronica stated that she is very pleased to be in San Bernardino and will focus on services to diverse populations. Allan thanked CaSonya Thomas, Deputy Director, and Chief Compliance Officer, for providing coverage in this division during the process of filling the Cultural Competency Officer position.

Tanya Bratton has been officially appointed Deputy Director of Administrative Services. Ms. Bratton is a definite asset to DBH.

The new Assistant Director, Richard Louis, will begin work on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Louis brings another skill level to our management team during this critical time and has interfaced with Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Commissioner McGee-Stehsel participated on the interview panel and stated that Allan had very good candidates for his Assistant Director position. She states Mr. Louis has great partnerships experience in ADS, fiscal and

### **County and State Budget**

The budget is an ongoing process. FY 2008-09 brought severe cuts to alcohol and drug services and children's services. Fortunately, we had PEI funding to shore up programs as part of transformation. Reduced sales tax, vehicle license fees and federal dollars have all

contributed to a cash flow problem. We've had to reduce liability by transferring staff to MHSA programs to get through this. Right now, we have a stable Alcohol and Drug Services budget.

FY 2009-10 the problems get worse. We are funded by state and federal dollars and must take a very strong business approach to determine what services are critical and cause the least impact on clients. You will see data reflecting that the Crisis Walk In Centers (CWIC), Community Crisis Response Team and the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Programs are most beneficial to the community and provide the most cost effective outcomes. Allan meets regularly with stakeholders providing them with ongoing budget information. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) are involved in the Home Foreclosure Seminars scheduled throughout the county through July 2009. The BOS and the County Administrative Officer (CAO) are facing major mitigations with a \$100 million shortfall. As sales tax erodes, DBH is faced with a \$30 million Reduction Plan due to the CAO by April 6<sup>th</sup>. So far, the county has avoided layoffs. Staff have been taking on more duties as staff leave. Personal income for MHSA is also reducing.

The fiscal forecast for FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13 will show the largest reductions.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** **Integrated Healthcare**

Director Rawland stated that the subject of integrated healthcare, providing both physical and mental health care at the same location to the same clients, has been discussed by the BOS and the CAO since Allan's arrival three years ago. He introduced Ron Smith, Program Manager II and Dianne Sceranka, Integrated Healthcare Manager to provide an update.

In late 2006, the Department of Behavioral Health, Public Health and ARMC formed a team to:

- Perform research
- Identify potential sites
- Design a model

By June 30, 2009 the county will have the first Integrated Healthcare Center on Holt Street in Ontario called the Ontario Health Center. Possible future integrated healthcare sites include Westside San Bernardino, Ranch Cucamonga/Upland and Victor Valley.

May 7<sup>th</sup> Special Presentation: Peer and Family Advocates

### **MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION WEBSITE:**

Jason Hill, DBH Systems Analyst and Doreen Glenn, Mental Health Specialist Information were able to gather information and pictures to create the new Mental Health Commission website. Brief biographies of each member of the Commission will be included on the website. Commissioners are to contact Doreen Glenn for assistance in preparing their biography at 909-382-3152 or via email at [dglenn@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:dglenn@dbh.sbcounty.gov).

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

No reports given.

## **DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS**

### **District 1:**

Commissioner Bill Swift stated that members of the DAC have been reaching out to the schools to get more participation. He also mentioned that many within the community are not aware of the services provided by CCRT and CWIC. Gary Atkins made note of Bill's concern and will follow-up to make contact.

Commissioner Susan McGee-Stehsel stated that few in the community are aware of the clubhouses, as well. Bob Sudol will follow-up with Susan

### **District 2 & 4:**

Commissioner May Farr stated that the District 2 and 4 have been meeting together. They are working on increasing attendance by advertising to community agencies within the two districts

### **District 3:**

Commissioner Christopher Massa, that the March DAC meeting was held in Morongo Basin where he found out that 6 out of 10 clients at Morongo Basin are enrolled in Full Service Partnerships. Commissioner Massa will not be able to attend the next DAC meeting to be held in Big Bear on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **District 5:**

Commissioner Veatrice Jews placed a press release in a local newspaper regarding the Fifth District DAC meeting held at TEAM House on March 19. Commissioner Massa chaired this meeting on behalf of the Fifth District Commissioners. He mentioned that members of a Hispanic community treatment center affiliated with Casa Ramona have been meeting at TEAM House.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2.02 p.m.

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*Susan McGee-Stehsel*  
Acting Chairperson

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Commission